

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS OF BOARD OF VISITORS TO U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the provisions of section 6968(a) of title 10, United States Code, the Chair appoints as members of the Board of Visitors to the U.S. Naval Academy the following Members of the House: Mr. GILCHREST of Maryland and Mr. SKEEN of New Mexico.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE CULTURE AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the provisions of section 1505 of Public Law 99-498 (20 U.S.C. 4412), the Chair appoints to the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development the following Member of the House: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will recognize five Members on each side for 1 minute.

WELCOMING REV. MICHAEL OSBORNE

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, let me thank you for the opportunity to welcome my pastor from Ocala, FL. He is a minister and pastor from Grace Presbyterian Church. He comes by way of Covenant Presbyterian Church in South Carolina and knows the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. INGLIS] and the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. TALENT] well.

I want to welcome him, and of course I also want to tell him how important it is to have him here today. He came up with part of the National Pastors Policy Group that Dr. Jerry Falwell has brought here to Washington as an attempt to establish the restoration of the Judeo-Christian ethic here in America. They are looking for spiritual revival.

Last night we learned from Dr. Falwell and Mike Osborne had the opportunity to listen to him and meet him. I wanted to welcome him here and particularly tell him and Members of this House, this great body, that we can pass all the laws we want here in Washington. Of course, we have a crime bill almost every year, but the real hard work is back in each of our congressional districts by pastors such as Mike Osborne.

If he will preach the gospel and talk about the Judeo-Christian ethic, we will restore what is right to this country and we will not need to pass more and more laws. I request that all of us

will pray for him and pray for our pastors back in the district that they might have the ability to transform all this in our values because the legislation we pass will not do it as quickly and as mightily as he does in the pulpit every Sunday.

So, Mike Osborne, I welcome you to this great body. And I thank the Chair for this opportunity.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Mr. PAUL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, a tremendous amount of energy has been put into the balanced budget amendment movement. The whole debate has perversely served to distract from the important key issue of the level of government expenditures. A balanced budget achieved at \$1.7 trillion offers no benefit whatsoever and a great deal of harm compared to a \$1 trillion budget out of balance. This whole debate over the balanced budget amendment has coopted the important issue of the proper size of government.

If Social Security funds are used to balance the budget, the support for this project will quickly fade. What is generally forgotten in this debate is that the national debt last year rose \$261 billion, a far cry from the much talked about \$107 billion deficit. The math is less clear than alleged.

The deficit problem is a lot more than an accounting problem. Balancing the books or pretending to do so will not solve the problem inherent in a welfare state manipulated by a majority vote for the benefit of the special interests.

NEIGHBORHOOD PROSECUTION

(Mr. BLAGOJEVICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that community policing works. That is why I am here today to recommend the next logical step in grassroots law enforcement: Neighborhood prosecution.

As a former prosecutor, I am proud to introduce a bill that would create a \$10 million pilot program to put prosecutors on the streets of America. These new prosecutors would expand their duties beyond the courtroom and work with residents to spot the causes of crime and aggressively root them out.

One might ask, why should prosecutors care about broken windows, graffiti, dark alleys, and abandoned buildings? Simply put, these conditions breed crime. Studies have shown that a broken window is the first step toward graffiti, which is the first step toward loitering, which is the first step toward gang activity. My plan says, fix the broken window; stop the cycle of crime.

THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE PTA

(Mr. BARR of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, our Nation continues to benefit from one of the greatest educational systems on the face of the earth due largely to the efforts of two groups of very special people. I speak not of Washington bureaucrats but rather of the parents and teachers in our local communities who work together tirelessly on behalf of our children.

I proudly commend Parent and Teacher Assoc. across America for their efforts to fight for schools that are safe and in which our children are taught values and knowledge that we hope will last them a lifetime.

I am also proud because Cobb County, GA, in the seventh District of Georgia is the birthplace of Alice McClellan Birney, the original founder of the PTA, which on February 17 celebrates its 100th anniversary. A special service will be held next Monday at Marietta High School in Marietta, GA, commemorating Alice McClellan Birney, and the millions of parents, teachers, and students whose lives she has touched.

On this 100th anniversary of the PTA, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Alice McClellan Birney and the millions of men and women of today's PTA's for the commitment and foresight they have exhibited to launch and continue this vital institution, an enduring living legacy to better education in America.

TUITION CREDITS

(Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, we have a golden opportunity to pass a measure that will help working families and their children secure the education and job training they need to get ahead. In the next few months we will debate a proposal that will provide up to \$10,000 a year in tax deductions to working families so they can send their children to college or vocational school.

Under the plan, parents could also improve their lives through career training. As a former teacher, I know that education is the best way for people to help themselves and for families to improve their lives. Global marketplaces and rapidly developing technologies make it hard to compete with just a high school diploma. In fact, the Census Bureau reports that college graduates earn an average of \$17,000 more than high school graduates every year. Figures like these show what we already know: Educational opportunities translate directly into economic security.